



ARTICLE ALERT

Information Resource Center

March 2011

Jazz Appreciation Month 2011



Each April, the United States celebrates Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM), an opportunity to savor a major American contribution to world culture.

About JAM

Jazz Appreciation Month 2011 – the 10th Anniversary – examines the legacies of jazz women, and their advocates, who helped transform race, gender and social relations in the U.S. in the quest to build a more just and equitable nation. The International Sweethearts of Rhythm, founded in 1937 at the Piney Woods School in Mississippi, will be the focus of the JAM Launch, a museum display and special online and public programming offered by the National Museum of American History to highlight the unique legacy of the school that music built and their dynamic, women's jazz band.

The International Sweethearts of Rhythm gained global recognition as the nation's first, integrated, female big band. Founded in 1937 at the Piney Woods School, band members were students, 14-years old and older, who paid for their education by performing as a jazz band to help promote and sustain the financially struggling school. Traveling nationwide in a customized, tour bus named Big Bertha, the Sweethearts performed at churches, state fairs, dance and civic halls and later entertainment venues such as the Howard Theater and the Apollo, setting box office records.

The Sweethearts confronted dual biases of gender and race and excelled during a period in history when many Southern blacks lived in slavery without chains and women were second class citizens. The band performed in Battle of the Band competitions against bands led by Fletcher Henderson and Earl Fatha Hines, played the Jim Crow South with white band members who disguised themselves as minorities, and toured overseas for the USO during World War II, when integrated performances were taboo. Original band members had come from a school with a legacy of excellence and overcoming difficulties.

The Piney Woods School was founded in the spring of 1909 by an Iowa-educated, young black man named Laurence Clifton Jones, who had agreed to teach a half-grown, bare-foot boy to read. The school's first classroom was a log under a Cedar Tree and later a pre-Civil War cabin donated by Ed Taylor, a former slave who had served as a valet to a Union soldier during the Civil War.

More details, please visit:

- America.gov at http://www.america.gov/jazz_america.html
- Smithsonian Jazz at <http://www.smithsonianjazz.org/>

U.S. Embassy Jakarta Mission Statement

Based on mutual respect and shared values, the U.S. Mission works with Indonesia to strengthen democracy, sustain the environment, promote prosperity, enhance understanding and ensure security for our people, our nations, and our region

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Copies of the articles listed in Article Alert are available from the Information Resource Center, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Jakarta. Should you wish to receive a photocopy of an article, please complete the ARTICLE ALERT REQUEST FORM (page 4) and return it to us. We will mail or fax the requested articles directly to you at no cost.

EARTH DAY 2011

1. NOAA: 2010 TIED FOR WARMEST YEAR ON RECORD. NOAA.gov, January 12, 2011.

According to NOAA scientists, 2010 tied with 2005 as the warmest year of the global surface temperature record, beginning in 1880. This was the 34th consecutive year with global temperatures above the 20th century average. For the contiguous United States alone, the 2010 average annual temperature was above normal, resulting in the 23rd warmest year on record. This preliminary analysis is prepared by scientists at NOAA's National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C., and is part of the suite of climate services NOAA provides government, business and community leaders so they can make informed decisions. Currently available online at http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110112_globalstats.html

2. Rives, Karin. OBAMA OUTLINES AMBITIOUS ENERGY AGENDA. America.gov, January 26, 2011.

Continued heavy investment in clean energy is necessary to help the United States transition to a stronger and more sustainable economy, President Obama said in his January 25 State of the Union address to Congress. With more research and incentives, the United States can

be the first country that has 1 million electric vehicles on the road five years from now, he said. A quarter century from now, the country should be able to get 80 percent of its electricity from wind, solar, biomass, natural gas and nuclear plants, he added.

3. Trainer, Mark. STATISTICS SHOW LARGE GAINS FOR BIOTECH AGRICULTURE IN 2010. America.gov, February 25, 2011.

Between 1996 and 2010, the production of biotech crops — crops genetically modified to increase yield — rose 87-fold, surpassing 1 billion hectares, according to new statistics from the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA). The increase in hectares in 2010 alone was 10 percent. That year, the 15th anniversary of the plantings of the first commercialized biotech crops, 29 countries planted biotech crops, up from 25 in 2009. Of these, 19 were developing countries. The United States was the leading grower of biotech crops at 66.8 million hectares, followed by Brazil (25.4 million) and Argentina (22.9 million). For the first time, each of the top 10 countries grew more than 1 million hectares of biotech crops

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

3. Kunzig, Robert. POPULATION 7 BILLION. National Geographic, vol. 219, no. 1, January 2011, pp. 32//69.

Kunzig notes that the world's population will soon reach seven billion, with more than 95% of that population growth occurring in developing countries. This is the first in a series of in-depth stories that National Geographic will run in 2011 on population. In this first segment, the author, environment editor for the magazine, sketches out a natural history of population. The challenges associated with population growth seem endless: poverty, food and water supply, world health, climate change, deforestation, and fertility rates. Currently available online at <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/01/seven-billion/kunzig-text>

4. Wohlers, Anton. DIGITAL GOVERNANCE. Choice, vol. 48, no. 4, December 2010, pp. 627-635.

The author, a research director and professor at Cameron University, discusses the Internet as the most visible representative of all the innovations in information and communication technologies (ICTs). The essay first goes into a brief discussion of the governance of the Internet and society, followed by a second section that focuses on works that address the impact of the Internet and politics on each other, with a special focus on how the Internet affects the democratic process. The final section includes several comparative studies and books that examine the use of the Internet, generally by governments, to provide public services.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

6. Indiviglio, Daniel. WOULD MORE EDUCATION REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT AND INCOME INEQUALITY? Atlantic Monthly, January 17, 2011.

Would more education reduce unemployment and income inequality in the United States? The author, associate editor at Atlantic and former investment banker, does not agree; he believes that the unemployment problem is cyclical, not structural. The current situation is

simply that there aren't enough job openings; but most of today's unemployed will eventually find jobs with their current skills once the economy recovers. As for wage inequality, most of that can be attributed to a small handful of people who have become wealthy, thanks to modern communications, marketing and technology. But for everyone else, incomes have not changed much. Education has little to do with this, as a college degree, or even an advanced degree, does not guarantee a high income.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

7. Dallek, Robert **POWER AND THE PRESIDENCY, FROM KENNEDY TO OBAMA.** Smithsonian, Vol. 41, No. 9, January 2011, pp. 36-43.

Dallek, a historian and John F. Kennedy biographer, notes that in spite of his short term, Kennedy presided over tense escalations in foreign affairs. He responded to a heightened arms race with the Soviet Union and the Cuban missile crisis by expanding the power of his office, and claiming for the presidency a broad autonomy in foreign-affairs decision-making. Dallek traces how Kennedy's successors also faced crises during their terms, their responses to them and their interactions with Congress in charting U.S. policy. Approaching the issue in the context of current events, Dallek says even today's leaders seem not to have grasped the dire political risks that may arise as a result of unilateral decision-making in foreign affairs.

8. Keller, Bill **THE BOY WHO KICKED THE HORNET'S NEST.** New York Times Magazine, January 31, 2011, pp. 32-39, 46-47.

Wikileaks, the group of anti-secrecy vigilantes, led by Julian Assange, a former computer hacker from Australia, came into possession of a large quantity of classified U.S. government communications in 2010. It was one of the biggest stories of the year and its repercussions continue. The author, executive editor of The New York Times, describes his dealings with Assange and the British newspaper, The Guardian, in their attempts to publish the documents, which were divided into military (the War Logs) and diplomatic. Keller recounts that the negotiations involved an air of intrigue verging on paranoia. Currently available online under a different title at <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/30/magazine/30Wikileaks-t.html>

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

9. Fallows, James. **LEARNING TO LOVE THE (SHALLOW, DIVISIVE, UNRELIABLE) NEW MEDIA.** The Atlantic Magazine, April 2011.

Everyone from President Obama to Ted Koppel is bemoaning a decline in journalistic substance, seriousness, and sense of proportion. But the author, a longtime advocate of these values, takes a journey through the digital-media world and concludes there isn't any point in defending the old ways. Consumer-obsessed, sensationalist, and passionate about their work, digital upstarts are undermining the old media—and they may also be pointing the way to a brighter future. Read more at <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/04/learning-to-love-the-shallow-divisive-unreliable-new-media/8415/>

10. Gisolfi, Peter. **THIS OLD LIBRARY: STRATEGIES FOR REDUCING ENERGY CONSUMPTION.** American Libraries, March 2011.

Sustainable building construction is the major issue facing the architectural profession in the United States and around the world. Consider the implications of ignoring it: Today, 300 million people living in the United States represent approximately 4.3% of the world's population, which is now nearing 7 billion. All 300 million of us use 21% of the world's energy resources every year. Of that 21%, approximately 43% is used to heat, cool, and construct buildings in this country. To continue with the math, the United States annually uses slightly more than 9% of the world's energy for buildings. As a nation and as architects are constantly developing ways to reduce energy consumption in the new buildings we design and construct.

11. Greenwald, Jeff. **LONG OVERDUE, THE BOOKMOBILE IS BACK.** Smithsonian, March 2011

Even in the age of the Kindle and the Nook, the library on wheels can still attract an audience. Tom Corwin, a writer and musician whose boyish, intense enthusiasm is highly contagious, clearly recalls the day when, on a whim, he decided to buy and restore a classic bookmobile...His idea was: Get well-known authors behind the wheel of the bookmobile, taking turns on a drive across the country, talking about the books that have touched their lives. What a great way to remind people of our connection to the written word, and how powerful it can be. Read more: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/Long-Overdue-The-Bookmobile-Is-Back.html#ixzz1GA5N5nPH>

12. Onishi, Norimitsu. **U.S. UPDATES THE BRAND IT PROMOTES IN INDONESIA.** The New York Times, Mar 6, 2011. pg. A.6

On the third floor of a shopping mall in Jakarta, around the corner from a Gap Kids and a Wedgwood china outlet, a new tenant is busily promoting what is perhaps the world's biggest brand: America. The tenant, called [@america](#), represents the United States government's first attempt at creating a full-fledged cultural center since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. A high-tech, interactive operation heralded as the digital-age successor to the venerable American Cultural Center, it is also American public diplomacy's latest effort to win over young foreigners, especially in Muslim countries. Read more at <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/06/world/asia/06indonesia.html?>

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- ☐ 2. OBAMA OUTLINES AMBITIOUS ENERGY AGENDA
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